

adjust the filter level based on the third result.

21. (Amended) The article of claim 18, further storing instructions that, upon execution, enable the processor-based system to:

turn off the flicker filter when the predetermined threshold value exceeds the alpha value.

22. (Amended) The article of claim 18, further storing instructions that, upon execution, enable the processor-based system to:

adjust the filter level when the alpha value exceeds the predetermined threshold value.

Remarks:

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,100 B1 (Gloudemans) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,120 (Horikawa). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. With regard to claim 1, the Office Action concedes that "Gloudermans [sic] does not disclose adjusting a flicker filter based upon the alpha value" as recited by claim 1. Office Action, p. 2. However, the Office Action states that "Horikawa on the other hand teaches adjusting the flicker reduction rate by varying the value of alpha." Office Action, p. 2. More so, the Office Action states "it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gloudemans' video presentation to include Horikawa's adjustment of flicker reduction rate." Office Action, p. 3.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. With respect to Horikawa, there is no teaching or suggestion for "adjusting a flicker filter based upon the alpha value" as recited by claim

1. Instead, use of the symbol alpha in Horikawa does not refer to an "alpha value". As defined by claim 1, an alpha value is a value that "indicates how a video signal and a graphics signal are to be combined." Nowhere does Horikawa teach or suggest that the symbol alpha in col. 9, lns. 57-64 is such an alpha value. This is particularly so, as nowhere does Horikawa disclose or suggest any use of an alpha value relating a video signal to a graphics signal. In fact, Horikawa never even mentions graphics signals.

Nor does the portion referred to by the Office Action (i.e., col. 9, lns. 57-64), teach or suggest adjusting a flicker filter based upon an alpha value. Instead, Horikawa teaches multiplying data by a constant value (represented by the symbol alpha) and then adding the value to a next line of data.

Thus claim 1 and dependent claims 2-9 patentably distinguish over the proposed combination. Further, independent claims 10 and 17 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable for the same reasons.

As to dependent claims 2 and 18, nowhere does Gloudemans teach or suggest "comparing the alpha value to a predetermined value to arrive at a result." Instead, the "threshold determination step (484)" of Gloudemans referred to by the Office Action relates to an image matching step and not comparison of an alpha value to a threshold. Gloudemans, col. 16, lines 31-40; FIG. 12. Further, the "threshold comparison (506)" referred to by the Office Action relates to a delay threshold, not comparison of an alpha value to a threshold. Gloudemans, col. 20, lines 10 to 40; FIG. 15. Thus claims 2 and 18 patentably distinguish for this further reason.

Regarding claims 3-4 and 19-20, nowhere does Gloudemans teach or suggest subtracting an alpha value from a threshold value to arrive at a second result as recited by claims 3 and

19. The determination of alphas for each of the edge points referred to by the Office Action does not render obvious these claims. Nor does the "sequence of operations for determining an alpha for an edge point" referred to by the Office Action teach or suggest "dividing the second result by an alpha step value to arrive at a third result; and adjusting the filter level based on the third result" as recited by claims 4 and 20. For these further reasons, claims 3-4 and 19-20 patentably distinguish.

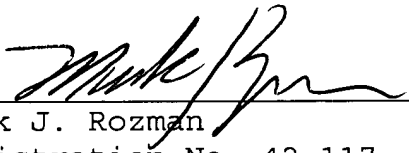
Claims 5, 7, 8, 15, and 21 further patentably distinguish because nowhere does Gloudemans teach or suggest turning off a flicker filter when a predetermined threshold value exceeds the alpha value, or otherwise. Nor does Gloudemans teach or suggest adjusting a filter level, either when an alpha value exceeds a threshold or in response to a result. Thus claims 6, 9, and 22 patentably distinguish for this further reason.

Regarding claims 12 and 16, Gloudemans does not teach or suggest adjusting a level of a flicker filter based on a result of a comparison of an alpha value to a threshold value. Thus for this further reason, claims 12 and 16 are patentable.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 13, 2003



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